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برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع
ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

WEEKLY REPORT #5 I

October 29, 2011 – November 4, 2011

November, 2011

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

COMPONENT 1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES

Result 1.1: Partner CSOs, Professional Organizations, and Government Partners launch Strategic Communication Campaign that effectively delivers priority Access to Justice messages to targeted vulnerable populations

- Component 1 provided approval to grantee Kurdistan Human Rights Watch (KHRW) to publish their awareness booklet for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The booklet required only minor revisions such as modification of the coloring of title and subtitles. KHRW will print the booklet and distribute to IDPs and share it with other grantees in the area for their use.
- Component 1 continued providing support to NGO grantees running public awareness media campaigns by reviewing content of messages and media.

Result 1.4: Effective monitoring and evaluation of implementing partner public awareness campaigns

- The process of mentoring and providing technical guidelines and input to the approved grantees is ongoing. This week the component team held meetings with representatives of Al Rahma Foundation, Fatima House and Al Amal to review their draft awareness raising materials and clarify USAID's branding and marking requirements. The organizations requested waivers to free them from USAID branding requirements for materials that will be displayed and distributed in public places because the markings pose a security threat for their staff and offices and would negatively affect the progress of the grant. They were informed that those requests are being considered according to the USAID guidelines and responses will be given to their requests as soon as the matter is figured out.
- At their request, Component 1 met with the Director General of Performance Monitoring and Rights Protection with the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) on October 30, 2011. Program reps briefed Ministry officials on A2J objectives and the grant program. The MOHR provided information on their monitoring mechanisms and reporting functions, which could possibly be a means to create trust among GOI entities that are considering partnerships with civil society organizations. The Ministry and A2J agreed to coordinate efforts in monitoring grantees' work on improving target vulnerable population's access to legal services.

COMPONENT 2 - IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

Result 2.1: Support Iraqi NGOs working in priority access to justice areas to improve their administrative and substantive capacity to support vulnerable populations

- Component 2 conducted two strategic planning trainings for NGOs in the Kurdistan Region. The first one, in Sulaymaniyah on October 24-25, included five females and nine male staff members from 14 NGOs.
- Adding to the above point, the Team conducted the second strategic planning capacity building training in Dohuk on October 28-29 in the Dilshad Hotel Hall. Representatives from 12 NGOs attended, 4 of whom were female and 8 were male. The training was designed to enhance the work of NGOs and presented case studies of successful strategic planning implementation.



- On October 30, the Component 2 Professional Development Advisor attended a conference in Babil hosted by CHF International for USAID-Community Action Program's Community Action Group (CAG). The conference centered on networking the CAG with potential donor partners. Representatives from six NGOs from Babil, Karbala, Diwaniya, Najaf, Anbar and Wasit attended; Component 2 gathered information from these NGOs in order to determine if their activities fall under the purview of the Access to Justice Program and if these groups may be eligible for Program grants.
- The Basra Regional Office (BRO) participated in the October 31 Water Shortage Conference sponsored by USAID in Basra at the request of the regional USAID Representative Armand Lanier. Key objectives included networking with other USAID implementers, US Government Agencies, Government of Iraq partners and NGOs and CSOs based in the southern region of Iraq. Many USAID implementing partners and donors operating in the Basrah Province, including Mercy Corps, Save the Children, Primary Health Care Program of Iraq (PHCPI) and ACTED attended the conference. The meeting resulted in an initial agreement between participants to increase efforts to collaborate, coordinate, and share information among USAID implementers as these efforts will lead to better service for local partners and better enable them to provide services to vulnerable populations.
- Component 2 held a series of meetings with the following government officials of the Kurdistan Region to determine how local NGOs register with the Kurdistan Regional Government, and to identify Kurdistan region NGOs to serve as potential partners:
 - Ms. Awat Baker, International NGOs coordinator at department of Foreign Relations on October 30
 - Mr. Fazl Omar, special assistant to the Prime Minister for Youth and Civil Society Affairs on October 31
 - Mr. Omar Salah, Ministry of Planning, General Directorate of Development Cooperation and Coordination on November 1
- The Basra Regional Office provided technical assistance to the Iraq Future Association in improving their grant summary form which was rejected by the grant evaluation committee. Assistance included helping them consider and incorporate into their proposal the technical points and advice provided by grants department. . The team will continue providing technical assistance in finalizing their grant summary form for resubmittal.
- The Team visited with Program grantee the Women's Empowerment Organization on October 27 to monitor



grant implementation, follow-up on achieved milestones, and check employment records and vouchers.

- To expedite capacity building training for NGOs at the request of the NGO Directorate, the Program received training courses on specific organizational development topics from the USAID/Tijara project. Component 2 tailored the courses and materials to ensure that they address the needs of the target audience before being rolled out in the coming weeks. This will serve as a temporary solution for training materials until more tailored courses can be developed for use in training vulnerable group CSOs.

Result 2.2: Work with Iraqi legal professional associations (primarily the Iraqi Bar Association and Jurist Union and their subsidiaries) to increase administrative and substantive capacity for empowering lawyers and other legal professionals to assist vulnerable or disadvantaged populations

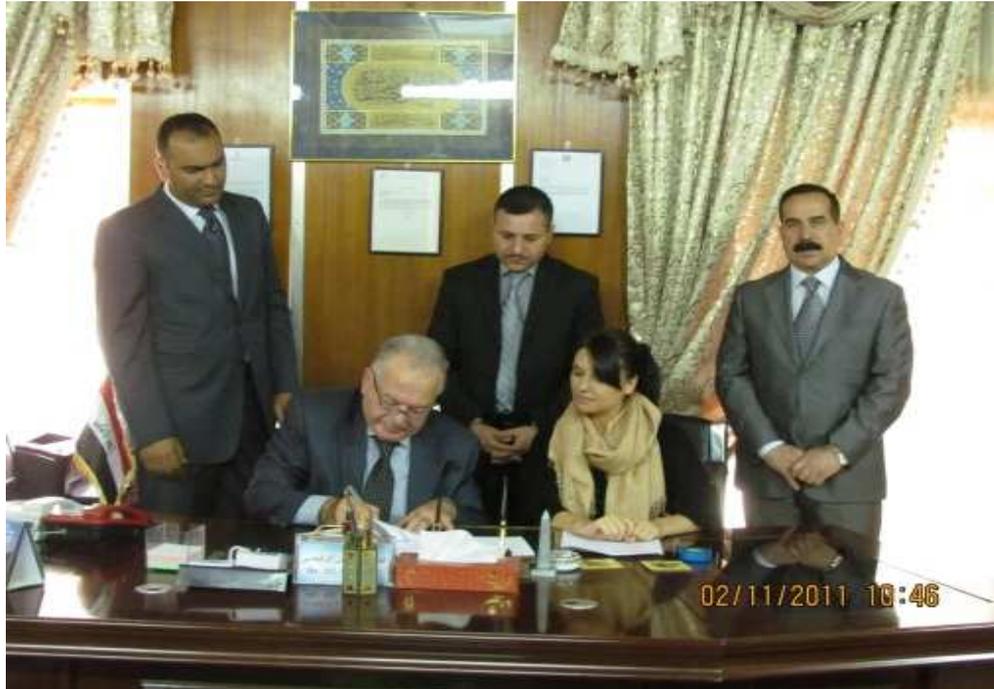
- Component 2 met with four board members of the Iraqi Jurists Union (IJU) on October 27 to elucidate the goals of the Access to Justice Program, and discuss potential collaboration. The IJU presented several project ideas, including training for government employees. The team encouraged them to submit grant applications for the proposed projects. The Component 3 Team Leader and Public Advocacy Advisor joined the meeting in order to discuss proposed IJU projects that fall under the purview of their components, such as a draft IJU law.



- On November 1, Component 2 met Mr. Zamil Al Saa'di, the head of the Iraqi Bar Association's Center for Citizens Complaints (CCC) and Dr. Ghassan Aziz from the USAID/Iraq Community Action Program III (ICAP III). The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate a link between the two organizations in order to develop a mechanism for the CCC to refer cases to ICAP III's Marla Ruzincka Iraqi War Victim's Fund (MRIWVF). Dr. Aziz committed to personally visit the CCC offices after the upcoming Eid holiday to screen over 100 existing complaints/cases to see if they qualify for assistance under the MRIWVF. Once the backlog is diminished, the two organizations plan to formalize a system to initially screen cases at the CCC to determine if they meet the criteria for the MRIWVF. Under this system, cases deemed appropriate will be referred on a bi-weekly basis.

Result 2.4: Support development of programs and modernization of academic and practical curriculum related to extending access to justice to vulnerable populations at law schools in Iraqi Universities in key locations throughout Iraq

- Component 2 met with the Dean and Deputy Dean of the Baghdad Law School on November 2 to sign a grant agreement for the development of a law clinic and clinical legal education. During the meeting the initial terms of the grant were discussed, as well as the implementation plan.



COMPONENT 3 – ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Result 3.1: Support partners in reviewing processes and procedures for reform of policies, regulations and legislation as they relate to vulnerable populations

- Component 3 and the Grants team completed a seminar for NGOs that engage on a regular basis in advocacy related activities on October 26. The 19 participants (13 males, 6 females) received information on the type of activities Component 3 is looking to support via grants. Component 3 is planning courses to build the capacity of these NGOs in the areas of advocacy and lobbying that will take place sometime in the coming spring season. This is the second of three sessions planned for advocacy NGOs in the next 2 months; the third event is scheduled to occur in late December. In addition, Component 3 continued to identify and vet relevant advocacy NGOs suggested by the NGO Directorate.
- The Team attended the November 2 meeting in the Civil Affairs directorate of COMSEC on Iraqi identity documentation for persons outside of Iraq. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) was not able to attend the event, limiting its effectiveness. COMSEC will subsequently seek clarification for their absence from the meeting and refocus efforts on steps ahead in spite of their absence.
- Component 3 finalized terms of reference to employ short-term technical advisors on disabilities in preparation for a roundtable on advancing disabilities legislation scheduled for December 17. Key stakeholders in disabilities issues in Iraq have been invited to this roundtable.
- Component 3 is organizing the second conference for the IBA to approve the Law on Lawyers. At the request of the IBA, this event has been rescheduled from November 29 to a tentative date of December 22.
- Component 3 supported the grantee selection process with suggestions for rejected applications and consideration of new applications.

- The team is preparing a small roundtable for NGOs working in the areas of vulnerable group protection to be held November 13, 2011. The roundtable will focus on strategy for passing a robust Social Welfare Law that will defend widows, orphans, and other vulnerable groups. This is being organized in close partnership with Access to Justice strategic partner and grantee, Al-Amal Organization.

Result 3.2: Coalitions, hotlines, or other positive linkages to support government efforts to improve legal frameworks for vulnerable populations

- Component 3 met with the Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA) to discuss the Kurdistan Law on Lawyers and their grant application:
 - The KBA accepted all of the Access to Justice partners' (including Program grantees Salahadin Law School, Women Empowerment Organization, and Kurdistan Human Rights Watch in addition to Program legal advisors) recommended amendments to the draft law. The draft is currently being reviewed and translated into both Kurdish and Arabic by a legal professional and will be submitted to Parliament soon.
 - Met with Karim Al Bahri, President of the KBA Legal Committee and member of the Member Union of Kurdistan Parliament, to discuss a further action plan on advocating in parliament for the adoption of the reformed Kurdistan Law on Lawyers.
 - Reviewed training activities included in the Iraq Access to Justice grant to the KBA; the first 9-day training is scheduled for December 1.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- The Grants Team notified 18 NGOs that had submitted Grant Summary Forms for this review cycle that their applications were not accepted to proceed to Phase 2 of process. The organizations were sent their Grant Summary Form submissions along with technical review comments from the Grants Manager and the RFA translated into Arabic or Kurdish as appropriate. Each NGO was advised to seek technical assistance from the Program's offices in Erbil, Baghdad, and Basrah to improve their Grant Summary Form prior to resubmitting for the next technical review cycle.
- The Grants Team conducted a site visit to the NGO office of grantee Al Mortaqa to examine their financial records, filing system, activities report, and their use of grant funds for project activities. Al Mortaqa is using the grant to provide trainings to Government of Iraq staff on strategic planning for public awareness campaigns.
- The Erbil Regional Office provided an overview of the November 15 RFA training program in Erbil for 16 KRG NGOs. Twenty-six representatives from 5 NGOs in Erbil, 2 NGOs in Sulaymaniyah, 3 NGOs in Dohuk, and 6 NGOs in Kirkuk participated in the event.
- The Erbil Regional Office identified a number of NGOs as potential grantees.

PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

Media Specialist

- Completed the Arabic templates for the program website. The media specialist is soliciting comments on the templates and will initiate work on content aggregation and upload.

- Produced newspaper advertisements on the NGO Directorate 90 day government extension for NGO re-registration efforts. These advertisements will be published in local newspapers to increase awareness of this important issue.

M&E Specialist

- Completed M&E training for NGO grantees in the Kurdistan Region at the Erbil Regional Office on November 2. Seventeen (7 female, 10 male) staff from rapid grantee NGOs participated. The meeting aimed to clarify the role and importance of monitoring and evaluation, reporting requirements, and monitoring and evaluation documents.



- The M&E Specialist met with Dr. Mohammed Sabah (Finance Manager) and Dr. Sangur Ahmed (Project Manager) at the Salahaddin Law School in Erbil to discuss monitoring and evaluations processes and documentation requirements.

Gender Specialist

Result 5.1: Assessment of gender integration activities to date that will inform the development of a Gender Action Plan that identifies cross cutting and component specific GIAPs.

The Gender Integration Specialist completed a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Iraq Gender Assessment Preliminary Findings and Recommendations.” Once the gender assessment is complete, the data and recommendations for change will be outlined in this presentation.

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

Administration/HR/IT

- The Program and its legal advisors, TRC, are still discussing how to move forward in the registration process. The Ministry of Human Rights refused to sign a letter of support for the Program due to new directions given by the Council of Ministers. The Program is now

turning to the Ministry of Higher Education and the Baghdad University for support, following the award of the grant to Baghdad Law School. The Program hopes to obtain a letter of support within the week following the Eid Holiday in order to complete the registration process.

- Recruitment for the following positions still on-going: Administrative Officer; Finance Assistant; Procurement Officer; and NGO Coordinator. New staff with their respective start dates will join the Program soon:
 - Zaid Hikmat, Law Faculty Coordinator, November 13;
 - Ali Jassim, Training Specialist, November 3;
 - Mohammed Jawdat, Citizen Advocacy Advisor, November 13.
- The Program's request to for an extension of the waiver for the DSA rate applicable to Basrah is pending.
- The Program is negotiating with the number two candidate for the Erbil Regional Director. Expected start date has been moved to November 8.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
October 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Stocktaking Exercise with IA2J, DPK and LBG Home Office Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Stocktaking Exercise with IA2J, DPK and LBG Home Office Staff Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Baghdad (NGO Directorate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Baghdad (NGO Directorate) C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Sulymaniya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA) C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Sulymaniya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA) C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Dohuk Targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 1 of 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 Capacity Building training Strategic Planning in Dohuk Targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 2 of 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2/ERO Strategic Planning Workshop
29	30	31	November 1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA) C2/ERO Strategic Planning Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 New Lawyers Training (IBA) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 1 of 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 COMSEC meeting for streamlining procedures for the Jinsiya Issue as well as assisting Iraqis abroad in obtaining Jinsiya – 10 AM Second targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 2 of 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1 Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Basrah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Basrah 					

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulymaniya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Sulymaniya C3 Small Roundtable led by Component 3 on NGO-based strategizing for a strong Social Welfare Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Duhok C1/IREX - Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training – Duhok 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Management Training in Finance, Procurement, and Personnel Policy, and Procedures for New Grantees–Erbil 	
26	27	28	29	30	December 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants RFP Proposal Writing Training –Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CI Series of Trainings on Effective Tools for Information Dissemination 		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psycho-social Training for selected team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psycho-social Training for selected team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psycho-social Training for selected team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psycho-social Training for selected team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psycho-social Training for selected team members 	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Quarterly Partners' Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Quarterly Partners' Meeting 	

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C3 Roundtable on Disabilities Law Reform 	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
▪	▪	▪	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Third targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 1 of 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Third targeted grants training for groups active in advocacy (Component 3 and Grants Team) Day 2 of 2 	▪

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in **RED**